

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheet," which includes FIGS. 12 and 13, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 12 and 13.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. With respect to FIG. 8, the Examiner alleges that reference numerals and/or subject matter mentioned in the description are not included. In particular, the Examiner alleges that the "XX" used to indicate an extension mode is not included. Applicant respectfully notes that "XX" is not a reference numeral. Paragraph [0035] recites:

Allowed values for the signal portion 126 are currently defined by the IEEE section 802.11 and other related sections as follows: "0A" (in hexadecimal) is for 1 Mbps; "14" is for 2 Mbps, "37" is for 5.25 Mbps, and "6E" is for 11 Mbps. According to the present invention, **an additional code "XX" is used to indicate an extension mode.** (Emphasis added).

In other words, "XX" is a possible value of the signal portion 126. Applicants respectfully note that the signal portion 126, as well as its reference numeral, is included in FIG. 8. It is not necessary to illustrate "XX" or any other possible values of the signal portion 126 in FIG. 8.

With respect to FIG. 13, Applicants have attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. In the "Replacement Sheet," Applicants included reference numerals 122 and 170 to indicate data and dummy data, respectively.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-9, 12-21, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward, U.S. Pat. No. 6,754,170 in view of Ho et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,950,397. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 1, Ward, either singly or in combination with Ho, fails to show, teach, or suggest specifying a first data field in said header that enables advanced signal processing and specifying a second data field that defines a data time period and an extension time period.

It is a longstanding rule that to establish a prima facie case of obviousness of a claimed invention, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 180 USPQ 143 (CCPA 1974), see MPEP §2143.03. Here, the Examiner fails to provide **any** reference to support a finding that specifying a second data field that defines a data time period and an extension time period is obvious. Furthermore, when evaluating claims for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, all of the limitations must be considered and given weight. Ex parte Grasselli, 231 USPQ 393 (Bd. App. 1983), MPEP § 2144.03. Here, it is clear that the Examiner has given little or no consideration of the limitation **and failed to give the limitation any weight**.

An exemplary embodiment of the present invention illustrated in FIGS. 8 and 13 includes a length portion 130. The length portion 130 defines “a number of microseconds that are required to transmit the data 122 and an additional extension time T_{ext} .” (Paragraph [0036], Lines 4-6). FIG. 13 illustrates that the length portion 130 “is set equal to the number of microseconds” necessary to extend the duration of D1 to include the extension time T_{ext} . (Paragraph [0039]). In other words, the length portion

130 specifies a second data field that defines a data time period and an extension time period.

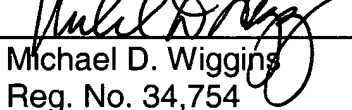
As best understood by Applicant, Ward does not show, teach, or suggest a second data field that defines a data time period and an extension time period. The Examiner alleges that Column 8, Lines 58-59 of Ward disclose this limitation. Applicants respectfully disagree. The cited portion of Ward states that “the length field is an unassigned 12-bit integer that indicates **the number of octets in the PSDU**.” In other words, Ward discloses that the length field defines a length according to a number of octets (i.e. a length in bits). Ward does not disclose a second data field that defines a data time period. Further, the cited portion is absent of any teaching or suggestion that the length field defines an extension time period. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as well as its dependent claims, should be allowable for at least the above reasons. The remaining claims should be allowable for at least similar reasons.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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